

This work goes on in states with large immigrant populations, like New York and California, but also in Arkansas, Oregon, and Nebraska, where immigrant populations are growing. In the last two years, the office has reached settlements with SmithKline Beecham, the pharmaceutical company, the Atlanta Journal Constitution newspaper, and Iowa Beef Packers, a meat packing and processing company in South Dakota.

Last year, the special counsel's office awarded \$45,000 to the Massachusetts Immigrant and Refugee Advocacy Coalition, a grant used statewide to education immigrants, train community agency staff, and hold forums. The office recently formed a valuable alliance with the Massachusetts Commission Against Discrimination. Since the office has no local branches, it is building a nationwide web of local contacts whom immigrants can turn to for federal help.

Unfortunately as national immigration rates soar, the Office for the Special Counsel is having trouble keeping up. Its activities are limited by a small staff and a budget of just under \$6 million. Doubling the budget would spread the office's reach more evenly across the country. It could take more preventative measures, helping employers before laws are violated, instead of punishing them once the harm is done.

This would help immigrants and the economy—a winning move for the United States.

FEDERAL JUDGESHIP

Mr. KOHL. Mr. President, today this Congress has expanded accessibility to justice for hundreds of thousands of residents of northern Wisconsin by creating a Federal judgeship to sit in Green Bay, WI. Let me explain how this judgeship will alleviate the stress that the current system places on business, law enforcement agents, witnesses, victims and individual litigants in northeastern Wisconsin.

First, while the four full-time district court judges for the Eastern District of Wisconsin currently preside in Milwaukee, for most litigants and witnesses in northeastern Wisconsin. Milwaukee is well over 100 miles away. In fact, as the courts are currently arranged, the northern portion of the Eastern District is more remote from a Federal court than any other major population center, commercial or industrial, in the United States. Thus, litigants and witnesses must incur substantial costs in traveling from northern Wisconsin to Milwaukee—costs in terms of time, money, resources, and effort. Indeed, driving from Green Bay to Milwaukee takes nearly two hours each way. Add inclement weather or a departure point north of Green Bay—such as Oconto or Marinette—and often the driving time alone actually exceeds the amount of time witnesses spend testifying.

Second, Wisconsin's Federal judges serve a disproportionately large population. I commissioned a study by the General Accounting Office which revealed that Wisconsin Federal judges serve the largest population among all Federal judges. Each sitting Federal judge in Wisconsin serves an average

population of 859,966, while the remaining Federal judges across the country—more than 650—serve less than half that number, with an average of 417,000 per judge. For example, while Louisiana has fewer residents than Wisconsin, it has 22 Federal judges, nearly four times as many as our State.

Third, the Federal Government is required to prosecute all felonies committed by Native Americans that occur on the Menominee Reservation. The Reservation's distance from the Federal prosecutors and courts—more than 150 miles—makes these prosecutions problematic, and because the Justice Department compensates attorneys, investigators and sometimes witnesses for travel expenses, the existing system costs all of us. Without an additional judge in Green Bay, the administration of justice, as well as the public's pocketbook, will suffer enormously.

Fourth, many manufacturing and retail companies are located in northeastern Wisconsin. These companies often require a Federal court to litigate complex price-fixing, contract, and liability disputes with out-of-State businesses. But the sad truth is that many of these legitimate cases are never even filed—precisely because the northern part of the State lacks a Federal court. This hurts businesses not only in Wisconsin, but across the Nation.

In conclusion, having a Federal judge in Green Bay will reduce costs and inconvenience while increasing judicial efficiency. But most important, it will help ensure that justice is more available and more affordable to the people of northeastern Wisconsin.

ILO CONVENTION 182 RATIFICATION

Mr. HARKIN. Mr. President, I rise today to commemorate the first anniversary of U.S. ratification of the ILO's newest core human rights convention: ILO Convention #182—the Elimination of the Worst Forms of Child Labor.

Last Friday was not just the first anniversary of ILO Convention #182. It was also the date on which Convention #182 came into effect in the United States. That means the first report on U.S. compliance with the terms of this treaty is due in Geneva by next September.

I have long been deeply involved in the struggle to end abusive child labor. Ten years ago, the scourge of abusive child labor was spreading in the U.S. and throughout the world with little notice or concern from our government.

That is why I supported the first-ever, day-long Capitol Hill forum on the Commercial Exploitation of Children. I had two primary goals in mind back then.

First, I wanted to sound an alarm about the increase in abusive child

labor in the U.S. and overseas. Second, I wanted to elevate this human rights and worker rights challenge to a global priority.

I am heartened to report that significant progress has been made in the past decade, even though much remains to be done.

In June of 1999, ILO Convention #182 was adopted unanimously—the first time ever that an ILO convention was approved without one dissenting vote. Just one year ago, the Senate, in record time, ratified ILO Convention #182 with a bipartisan, 96-0 vote.

And today, 41 countries have ratified ILO Convention #182—countries from every region of the world. 12 African nations, 12 European nations, 10 American Caribbean nations, 5 from the Middle East, and 2 from Asia. Since the ILO was established in 1919, never has one of its treaties been ratified so quickly by so many national governments.

In May of 2000, we enacted the Trade and Development Act of 2000. This Act included a provision I authored that requires more than 100 nations that enjoy duty-free access to the American marketplace to implement their legal commitments to eliminate the worst forms of child labor in order to keep these trade privileges.

Since May, the State Department has demanded thorough review of the efforts of over 130 nations to eliminate the worst forms of child labor. The U.S. Labor Department is planning to file its first comprehensive report to Congress on whether countries that enjoy preferential access to our markets are fulfilling their obligations de facto until ILO Convention #182. And they've dispatched fact-finding teams around the world to investigate.

Their findings will be submitted to an inter-agency review process chaired by the Office of the U.S. Trade Representative. Later this year, this process will decide which beneficiary countries should retain their trade privileges and which should not.

Last year, this Congress approved a \$30 million U.S. contribution to the ILO's International Program to Eliminate Child Labor (IPEC) for Fiscal Year 2000.

This made our country the single largest contributor to IPEC. And—if and when we finally approve our LHHS Appropriations Bill—our contribution will increase to \$45 million in Fiscal Year 2001. This is yet another reason for us to wrap up that legislation before we adjourn.

That's the good news, Mr. President. But we've got a long way to go in our battle to eliminate abusive child labor and open up a bright future for more than 250 million child laborers around the world.

Our first, and perhaps most important step, is to heed ILO Convention #182 in our own country. We have to develop a national action plan to eliminate the worst forms of child labor in